

From: Aerocenter
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/2/02 1:46pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I would like to comment on the case as follows:

As a consumer, I have not been hurt by Microsoft practices. The standards they have established enable someone who is not an expert to learn procedures quickly and accurately. As a small business owner, I am able to buy affordable programs which allow my business to compete with much larger entities on a level field. We cannot afford secretarial and graphics staff, yet we can appear large and efficient to our customers because we have excellent, affordable software. I acutely remember before Microsoft became central to computing. The programs were not compatible with each other. Printers may or may not work. Nothing was standard.

It is my impression that those companies which did not have the foresight or technical ability to expand are now trying to bring down the major company that did. MS did replace many competitors. That is our free market system. Netscape browser was free the first time I learned about it. Then they got the idea for an IPO. I wondered how a company which gave away their program could justify an IPO. I was told they had some server software and government contracts. Soon they were charging for Netscape Browser. After the IPO was successful, the stock price blossomed, for a time. Then the market discovered they did not have unique technology. The market reacted. Stock price plummeted. Now Netscape wants to lay the blame.

In any case, the consumer, represented by me, did not suffer harm. On the contrary, we have benefited from the greatest technology advance in my lifetime (62 years).

I urge the court to reject the politics of this case, and look at the effect on the consumer. We have not overpaid, we have not been duped, we have been enabled, and Microsoft has done the best job of any company to make sure anyone who has the ambition can learn the programs.

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Owner

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